

THE SHAKERITE

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APOCALYPSE NOW?

Earthquakes, tornadoes, floods and
landslides . . . are we nearing the end?
Check out pages 3 and 5 to find out.

Art by Victoria Fydych and Michelle Scharfstein

Note Worthy

5.07.10



SHAKER ALUM CONVICTED OF MURDER, FELONIOUS ASSAULT

After deliberating for three hours, a Portage County jury convicted Adrian Barker ('06) April 23 of the murder of Kent State University student Christopher Kernich. Barker, a student at the University of Akron, was also convicted of felonious assault and tampering with evidence. He faces a minimum of 15 years to life in prison for the murder charge. Barker was acquitted of misdemeanor assault of another Kent State University student. Prosecutors alleged that Barker hit Kernich in the head from behind during a confrontation that occurred in the early hours of Nov. 15 on the streets of Kent. Ronald Kelly ('08) is next to be tried in Kernich's death. Barker will be sentenced after the Kelly verdict.

DANA FINLEY



Barker

SLOW TIX SALES NIX DANCE

• Interest in socials wanes as only 70 tickets are sold

BY DANA FINLEY
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

The spring dance scheduled for April 17 was cancelled due to lackluster ticket sales. This cancellation follows poor dance turnout earlier in the year.

Assistant Principal Eric Hutchinson announced the cancellation at the end of ninth period April 16, the day before the Saturday night dance.

Isabelle King, the head of the dance committee for Student Council, was not surprised. "I was disappointed, but had a feeling the dance would be cancelled," she said.

"We had to sell a certain number of tickets, and we were nowhere near that number by Thursday." According to King, approximately 70 students purchased tickets for the dance. For the dance to take place, at least 250 tickets had to be sold.

The dance, themed "Dance Through the Decades," was promoted throughout the school with colorful posters, and students were encouraged to RSVP for the event through a Student Council Facebook event. At press date, the event had accrued 116 confirmed attendees.

"I thought maybe it would be bigger because the theme went over well with people," said King, who also

noticed a significant decrease in the number of seniors who purchased tickets in comparison to past dances. "The senior class normally buys the most tickets of all the classes," she said.

The cancellation follows a disappointing year of ticket sales for dances at the high school. Some students responded negatively to the administration's stance on dance styles following the September Back to School Dance. Although the Homecoming dance was considered a success by Student Council, it was succeeded by dismal attendance at the Winter Ball Feb. 6.

Students such as junior Rosa Katz are beginning to lose interest in the high school's socials. "I didn't buy a ticket because they don't seem like fun anymore. None of my friends were going, so I wasn't going to, either," Katz said.

King said Student Council will continue planning dances for next year.

"The dances won't be cancelled altogether, but new ideas for them are being discussed and are in the process of being approved," King said.

Hutchinson encouraged students who had purchased the \$5 tickets to report to the upper cafeteria after school April 16 to receive refunds.



Allie Levin/The Shakerite

STUDENTS RECEIVE TICKET refunds from Student Council members in the Lower Cafeteria after school April 16 following the cancellation of the April 17 spring dance.

TAKING A UNIFORM APPROACH TO SUPPORT

• Tennis team wears Team Adrian T-shirts in solidarity with Barker

BY DANA FINLEY
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

The T-shirts are orange and gray and represent the colors of Adrian Barker's prison uniform. The text reads, "The truth shall set him free." People wearing them express their solidarity with Barker ('06), who is awaiting sentencing for the murder of 23-year-old Christopher Kernich.

Senior Noah Collin is one of them.

"I just want to get the story out," said Collin, who doesn't know Barker but wears the T-shirt because he believes that there is reasonable doubt that Barker is guilty, that Barker is a victim of mistaken identity.

During the trial, prosecutors contended that an intoxicated Barker hit Kent State University student Christopher Kernich, 23, in the head from behind while Kernich was engaged in a physical confrontation with Ronald Kelly ('08). When Kernich fell to the ground, he hit his head and lost consciousness. Prosecutors said Barker and Kelly kicked and stomped on Kernich on the pavement. Kernich died six days later. Testing later found Kernich's blood on Barker's shoe and shirt.

Barker's defense team argued that the Kent police investigation was flawed because the police ignored evidence that a third person was involved. Barker's lawyers said that it was not their client but Glen Jefferson Jr., who accompanied Kelly and Barker that night, who hit and stomped on Kernich.

According to one of Barker's lawyers, four witnesses from that night identified Jefferson as the second attacker, along with Kelly. However, the witnesses changed their statements after speaking with the police or prosecutors.

Despite the defense's argument, the jury convicted Barker of second-degree murder after three hours of deliberation.

Retired Shaker math teachers Al Siebert and Al Slawson have led the T-shirt campaign. Collin said that Slawson, who also coached the men's tennis team, gave head varsity coach Danny Klein a box of shirts for the team. Barker played tennis for Slawson.

Klein taught Barker and his peers at the Cleveland Skating Club and helped coach varsity tennis Barker's senior year. Klein, who remained friends with Barker after his graduation, said that Barker helped him teach tennis to students during the summer.

Klein said he wears the shirt to show the tennis team he represented and played for supports Barker and his family. "It's a way to let people know he was a good member of the community and school system," Klein said.

To help pay for Barker's defense, his supporters created a website -- defensefund4adrianbarker.com. T-shirts can be ordered through the site, which suggests a donation of \$20.

Said Collin, "I wanted to buy a shirt to support Adrian and his family as they go through his trial and appeals."

Check out page 5 for the Editorial Board's view of the Barker verdict.



Dana Finley/The Shakerite

END OF THE WORLD? NAH, JUST MORE COVERAGE

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

Science teacher Kenneth Culek wants everyone to relax. The world is not ending.

A rash of severe earthquakes over magnitude six, a flood in Egypt and a volcanic eruption that stalled thousands of flights worldwide has amplified claims from the Mayan's ancient calendar that the world will end in 2012.

However, Culek isn't sure all of these events live up to the hype they are receiving.

"I certainly noticed these things in the news, but I'm not sure how it's so unusual," Culek said. He would like to know if it's the frequency of earthquakes or coverage of them that is actually increasing.

"I think it might be because there are more people in the world, it's more notable. There's more communication, cell phones, Internet and TVs, especially in developing countries where these things weren't before," Culek said.

Earthquakes are nothing new, but eight occurred from Jan. 3 to April 14, and only one of them was measured below magnitude six.

Two temblors occurred only an hour apart Jan. 3 near the Solomon Islands in the Pacific about 10 miles away from each other. They were magnitude 6.5 and 7.2. There was a 6.5 earthquake offshore of California Jan. 10, and the cataclysmic 7.0 Haiti earthquake hit Jan. 12.

On Feb. 10, a 3.8 earthquake happened in Illinois, said to be significant because Illinois have few earthquakes and it was felt in four surrounding states. An 8.8 earthquake, among the strongest ever recorded, occurred in Chile Feb. 27. Though few earthquakes were in the news during March, one occurred April 4 in northern Mexico -- a 7.2 earthquake that also rocked California. A 6.9 earthquake happened in China April 14.

Culek noted that world events of any sort weren't as publicized as they were when he was younger. "Back when there were only three TV stations, you never heard about a serious earthquake halfway around the world," he said.

The Midwestern quake didn't shock Culek. He noted that mild earthquakes happen close to Shaker, usually under Lake Erie. "I know that there's a fault line that goes near that area. I don't quite remember, but I think it goes through southern Ohio down through Missouri," he said.

In addition to earthquakes, surprise heavy rains caused flash flooding in the desert climate of Egypt Jan. 18, and a volcano eruption in Iceland expelled a huge ash cloud that stalled thousands of airplane trips to, from and within much of Europe April 15-18.

As usual, Ohio has remained immune to these disasters, and students displayed little concern that the world is in danger of ending.

"I haven't noticed these things at all. I did hear some about the earthquakes from my teachers," senior Alyse Whiting said. She believes that the world's ending is possible, but not in 2012, and that there's little connection between the events and the 2012 theory.

"I guess it's a sort of warning, though. Where we are now, anything's possible. I think it's just Earth, but it is happening more frequently," Whiting said. She hopes it calms down and, right now, feels safe living in Ohio. "Ohio's pretty unpredictable. You never know what you'll get, so eventually that stuff might happen here, too."

Sophomore Jane Amusat thinks nothing odd is occurring. "Like really? Uh, no. I mean, it's just earthquakes. It does make me sort of think of 2012, though."

Culek dismissed the possibility of the globe's demise.

"I haven't paid much attention to the whole 2012 theory," Culek said. "What is it, the world ending or something? I really think that every generation has an end of the world theory. I remember Y2K, when Earth was supposed to end in 2000."



8
The number of major earthquakes that occurred between Jan. 3 and April 14

7
The number of major earthquakes above magnitude 6 during that interval

2012
The year the world is supposed to end, according to the Mayan calendar

2000
When PCs couldn't recognize the year 2000, the world was supposed to end.

Compiled by Layne Sims



THIS LARGE CREVICE slicing through a road was just part of the damage resulting from the devastating 7.0 Haiti earthquake that occurred Jan. 12. The quake was believed to have caused 200,000 deaths.

HALLS WON'T HAVE BRUSH WITH KID CUDI'S FAME

BY LAYNE SIMS
NOTEWORTHY EDITOR

The process of painting a mural on a high school wall is more complicated than you might think.

"We don't let kids just draw on the wall. We have a procedure," art teacher Susan Weiner said.

Murals typically appear as part of a students' senior projects. Weiner said that seniors must present their ideas for murals to a committee comprising Art Department Chairman Dan Whitely, an assistant principal and another art teacher.

Seniors interested in painting one must identify an area for the painting to go and obtain approval from head custodian Tim Bates.

During the committee meeting, the administrator and art teachers decide if the idea is school appropriate, needs improvement, or the scheme needs to be changed.

"We approve the idea if we think they'll add to the building and not detract from the atmosphere. We try to make sure that the murals have a pleasant effect on the school's atmosphere," Weiner said.

"The skill level of the artist is also very important," said Whitely, who steps in if the idea needs improvement. "Sometimes you have to say as kindly as you can, 'You don't have the skill,'" he said.

Whitely addressed how murals depicting more controversial figures, such as Tupac Shakur, were approved by the committee. The Shakur mural, which also depicts Ray Charles and Bob Marley, is located on the wall above the lockers near the guidance office and front entrance. An inspirational quote from each artist is included.

"The student who chose Tupac chose not to focus on his other lyrics or activities during his life, but rather the hopeful, inspirational lyrics from one of his songs in a more timeless way," Whitely said.

The "activities" Whitely alluded to include being convicted of raping a woman in a hotel room and sentenced to prison for one and a half years in 1993. He was also convicted of attacking a former employer on a music video set in 1994. Many have accused most of his lyrics of being pornographic, homophobic, misogynistic and too profane.

Whitely said that the quote chosen from one of Shakur's songs enabled him to be associated with Charles and Marley. The quote reads, "I know it seems hard sometimes, but remember one thing. Through every dark night, there's a bright day after that. So no matter how hard it gets, keep your head up and handle it."

He also said that if the student's plan had been just to paint a portrait of Shakur on the wall, it probably wouldn't have passed the committee.

Recently, some students complained when they heard a rumor that a proposed mural of former Shaker student and rapper Kid Cudi was not approved this year. The rumored rejection was surprising given Shakur's presence in an existing mural. However, according to project advisers, the idea never came before the committee.

"The Kid Cudi idea sounds vaguely familiar, as one of the ideas that students presented to me early in the senior project process," project adviser James Schmidt said.

"I believe I suggested other topics for their mural that were more likely to be approved by the mural committee, but I don't recall for certain what the original idea was. I was unable to attend the entirety of this year's committee meetings, so I can't say for sure if this idea was brought up to the committee this year."

Weiner is glad that students have an opportunity to do murals for senior project. She said, "I think that since kids do them, students can appreciate them, their school and their school experience more."



Layne Sims • The Shakur mural

A MURAL PORTRAYING Tupac Shakur made the senior project cut in 2005. A rumored rejection of a Kid Cudi mural had seniors grumbling.



In&Out

The Shakerite helps you navigate the current of change.

Compiled by Ellen Holcomb

IN

- Lacrosse games
- Lunch on the lawn
- School carnival
- IB program
- AP tests
- Flip flops
- Changing your Facebook name
- Natural sunlight



OUT

- Hockey games
- Crowded and loud cafeteria
- Spring fling
- Academic freedom
- Sleeping Uggs
- Incriminating yourself on Facebook
- Tanning beds

Shaker students high schoolers turn to online pseudonyms



Dana Finley • The Shakerite

Realizing admissions officers use Facebook, too, students scramble to avoid rejection

BY DEVIN PARRY
STAFF REPORTER

With all of his applications sent in, senior Benjamin Davis couldn't rest easy until he knew his personal life was safe from snooping admissions officers.

So, he changed his Facebook name.

You can volunteer, play a varsity sport, ace the SAT and ACT, but it's all for naught if you're caught misbehaving on Facebook. Just one minor slip-up on the popular social-networking site could put you at risk for a denied application.

According to the Chicago Tribune, a recent Kaplan Inc. survey reported that 10 percent of admissions officers from selective schools have admitted to looking at applicants' Facebook and Myspace pages. In addition, 38 percent of admissions officers who checked student profiles said what they saw — whether it was potential students drinking, holding an alcoholic beverage or trashing the school — had a negative impact on applicants' chances.

Shaker students are realizing the risks and are trying to protect themselves from a Facebook rejection. Davis

went by the name "Benjamin Porter" until recently on Facebook. "I changed my name so colleges couldn't find me, but then I changed it back because I realized that was dumb," Davis stated in a Facebook interview.

The Guidance Department wants to save you from the damage one picture can do to your applications. Guidance counselor Gerimae Kleinman said counselors tell students to monitor what they put on their Facebook pages, just like they tell them to monitor their email addresses to make them look more professional.

As for admissions officers finding your profile, Kleinman said, "I don't know how they get into it, but they seem to." Her main advice? Monitor, monitor, monitor.

While changing your name may prevent colleges from finding you, it also prevents friends and family from connecting with you, which is the whole point of Facebook.

A better approach might be to apply Facebook's improved privacy settings — though many users never bother. You can now control what people see on your profile when they search you, and whether or not you show up on Facebook searches.

You can customize exactly who can view your pic-

tures, and block certain people from viewing certain photos. Facebook also recently implemented a new feature that only allows the friends that you choose to view your posts.

However, no matter how tightly you lock down your Facebook page, with college admissions growing ever more competitive, discretion is still the better part of valor.

It is smarter to not post anything that could jeopardize your application in the first place; Facebook keeps a record of all deleted photos, notes and wall posts.

Davis dislikes this policy, but added, "I guess if you feel bad about something later on, then you never should have done it in the first place."

Sophomore Candace Cunard holds a similar view, stating that she always "thinks before [she] posts," an attitude that could save you a rejection letter.

Junior Abigail Shelton, who changed her Facebook name for a short time just for fun, thinks Facebook names may not be the issue.

She said, "If you have to change your name to avoid getting rejected from colleges, you should probably re-evaluate some of your life choices."

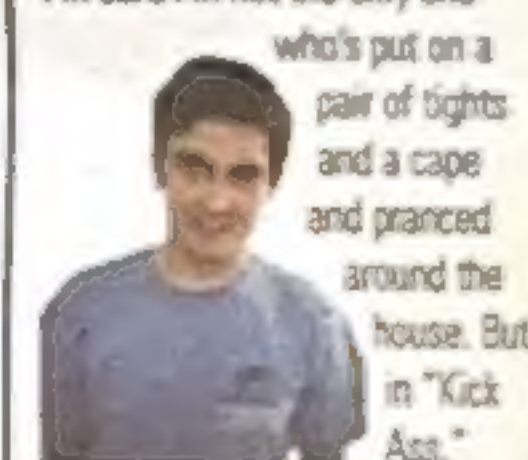
GO SEE IT

'KICK ASS'
DOES
JUST THAT



GRADE: A
GENRE: ACTION

What would your superhero power be? What kind of costume would you don? I'm sure I'm not the only one



Gabe Gordon

who's put on a pair of tights and a cape and pranced around the house. But in "Kick Ass," Dave Lizewski prances out of the house and into the streets to fight injustice. He is soon embroiled in an epic, bloody, action-packed, hilarious battle between good and evil. This movie has it all: a creative storyline, dynamic characters, even love. Hemophobes beware — the Red Cross would go to town with the blood spilled in this movie (most of it at the hands of an 11-year-old girl). Combining the action of "Ninja Assassin" with the hilarity of "Superbad," "Kick Ass" is a must see for the lesson it teaches about mankind's ability to make a difference, cape or no cape.

Shaker Heights Teachers' Association

SHTA

Professionals Dedicated to
Educating Shaker's Youth

FOLLOW UP: HOMOPHOBIA LEADS TO FAKE PROM



McMillen

The Itawamba school district administration is at it again. After a court ruled that the district could not cancel prom to prevent 18-year-old Constance McMillen from attending with her girlfriend, the administration cancelled it for "other" reasons. Unbeknownst to McMillen, parents and other adults in their city organized an unofficial prom for the students, while an alternative prom at a different location was set up for McMillen. The presence of parents and faculty at the "fake" prom qualified it as a school event, which was only attended by McMillen, her date, and five others. According to McMillen, some of the other five students had learning disabilities and were sent to the bogus dance because seniors didn't want them at their big event.

ILANA KRAMER

ShakerSpeaks

05.07.10



It's the end of the world as we know it

NASA predicts an increase of sunspots and sun flares in 2012. Earthquakes have wreaked havoc upon Haiti, Chile and Italy, Uganda and California wiped away communities. Volcanic ash blanketed Europe.

Why? Because the world is ending. Not for another two years, but it's always good to start early. Scientists might attribute the destructive natural disasters of the past few months to global warming, but most people know better.



RACHEL SHAW

After all, the huge number of Facebook groups ("Why didn't you do your homework?" "I thought the world was going to end") that have popped into existence, both condemning and celebrating the coming apocalypse, are sure proof that in 2012, as the Mayans predicted, the world will come to an end.

The proof is in plain sight for all to see. Start on Jan. 12, with the Haitian earthquake. According to televangelist Pat Robertson, the Haitian people made a pact with the devil in order to be freed from French colonial rule.

Forget tectonic plate movement – the earthquake was punishment for having Haitian ancestors who may or may not have practiced voodoo.

The Feb. 27 Chilean earthquake, according to Robertson, showed that "God was even angrier with Chile than with Haiti." Perhaps Chile not only committed to Satan, but also left the toilet seat up.

On the Richter scale, the earthquake in Haiti was of a 7.0 magnitude, much less than the 8.8 magnitude earthquake in Chile. However, Chile is accustomed to earthquakes, and so has a much sturdier infrastructure.

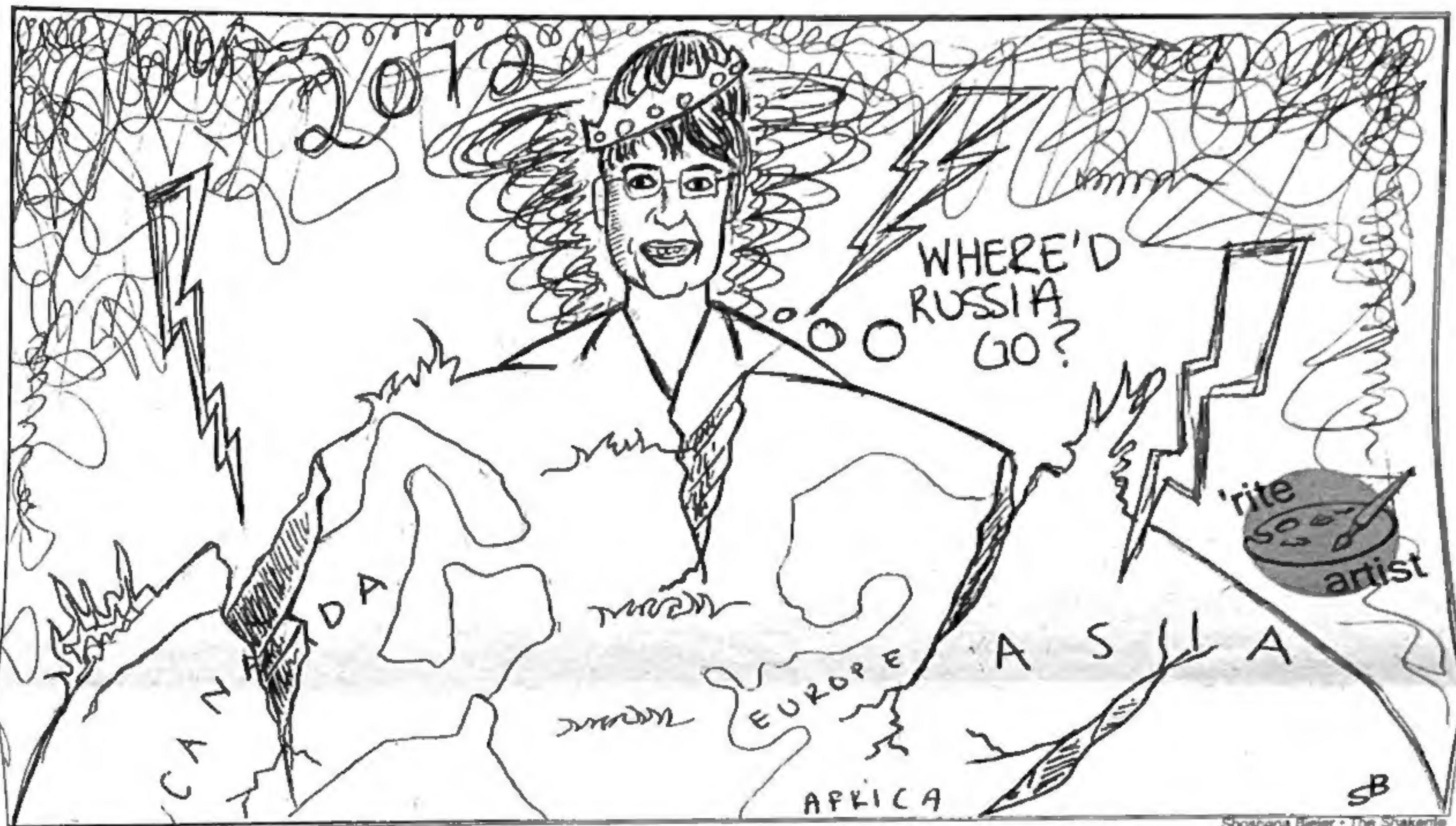
The Chilean earthquake caused about 700 deaths, while in Haiti, the death toll exceeded 200,000. So what does that tell us? Next time God wishes to punish Chile, an erupting volcano might work better.

There are other current disasters too, and not all of them are natural. A recent CBS News poll shows that most Americans don't want former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin to run for President in 2012.

If the world will end, there's just no reason she shouldn't. Where would we be without one last laugh?

We need to live as though the world is ending. We may only have two years left.

Is it worth wasting your time in AP classes, filling out crazy college applications and sitting through interviews, hoping for college credit when you may never actually get past your freshman year of college?



CONSIDERING ALL THE EVIDENCE

• Eyewitness accounts point to third participant in Kernich murder

Every American citizen is guaranteed a fair trial by the Sixth Amendment, but shouldn't this extend to trying everyone who could possibly be involved in a case? Admittedly, although that might be appropriate, it's just not realistic. Still, trying each of the three men involved in a murder certainly seems reasonable.

A recent case involving Shaker alumni Adrian Barker ('06) and Ronald Kelly ('08) makes us think that this opinion is not shared by the Portage County judicial system.

Barker and Kelly, along with Glen Jefferson, Kelly's roommate at the University of Akron, attacked Christopher Kernich, a Kent State student Nov. 22. This attack led to Kernich's death. Barker was tried for murder, and Kelly will be. It is unclear as to whether Jefferson will be tried for murder.

Barker's trial began April 23. It ended April 23 – after a mere three hours of jury deliberation, which could be due to an incomplete investigation.

Of the three attackers, Jefferson was the only one with an existing criminal record. And yet, he was allowed to simply go home after the attack.

Jefferson admitted to kicking Kernich while he was on the ground, after Barker pushed him. He has testified against Barker, and will testify against Kelly. Although he was without a doubt involved with the murder, he will serve less time for helping the prosecution.

On Barker's T-shirt and shoe, there was a small sample of blood from the night of the fight. Originally disregarded, it was later tested and shown to be a mixture of Ker-

nich's, Barker's, and Kelly's blood, along with an unidentified individual's.

It is possible that this last individual is Jefferson, but a sample of Jefferson's blood was never taken. How is it that Jefferson was allowed to go home -- without surrendering his clothing, which had blood on it -- as evidence?

Other than the Kent State campus police, the eyewitnesses who testified against Barker had been drunk or drinking the night of the fight. High blood alcohol levels are not exactly the mark of a reliable witness, especially when there is so much confusion already concerning the second individual who kicked Kernich while he was on the ground.

When witnesses were asked if they recognized Barker as an attacker, he was handcuffed, sitting in a police car.

Psychologically, that makes him into a convict. Psychology professor Gary Wells told The Plain Dealer "If the police are just showing you an individual, then the presumption is they're saying, 'This is who we think did it.'"

Four of the witnesses originally described a man matching Jefferson's description as the second attacker, along with Kelly, who allegedly kicked Kernich after Barker pushed him to the ground. After talking to prosecutors and police, these four witnesses named Barker as the second attacker. Yes, eyewitness accounts might change over time, but would an honest recollection actually change after talking to the authorities?

Barker was definitely involved in Kernich's murder, and that action does deserve consequences. But should he appeal, he deserves a comprehensive look at all of the evidence.

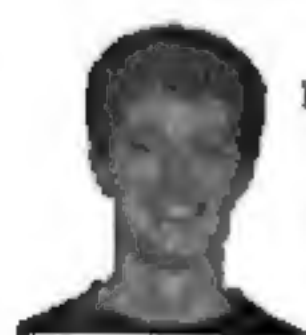


Check out Noteworthy to see how students are supporting Barker
Page 2

TYSON: TASTES LIKE CHICKEN

It has come to my attention that some of our cafeteria food is provided by poultry production giant Tyson—yes, the company with more controversies than Justin Bieber has fan clubs.

I Googled Tyson, so I am now qualified to quell fears students may have of Tyson chicken. Last time I checked, this is America, where there are two sides to every story, and morals take a back seat to profits.



TOM O'NEILL

Tyson's problems really started when journalists Sally and Sadie Kneidel toured a Tyson broiler farm for their book "Veggie Revolution: Smart Choices for a Healthy Body and a Healthy Planet." They found that the windowless, 42-by-400-foot sheds house

about 24,000 chickens each, leaving seven-tenths square feet for each chicken. That's a space just a tad tighter than a shoe box.

Once again, liberal wackos in the media are trying to criticize something they don't understand. First off, these journalists should mind their own beeswax. I don't see Tyson workers following the Kneidels to their cubicles and putting their work under a microscope. Second, have these sisters Kneidel even looked at any facts in this situation?

A recent Gallup poll of chickens found that a majority of chickens prefer being crowded and standing in a pool of their own waste. Incidentally, Tyson's chickens have never complained that Tyson only cleans waste from their cages every 18 months. The reporters also complained that these cramped conditions lead to oversized breast muscles, which, if too big, can render the chicken immobile, often leading to chicken fatalities.

The Kneidels conveniently fail to report that Tyson farmers check the sheds at least five times a day for dead chickens. Tyson has clearly done their research: a dead chicken

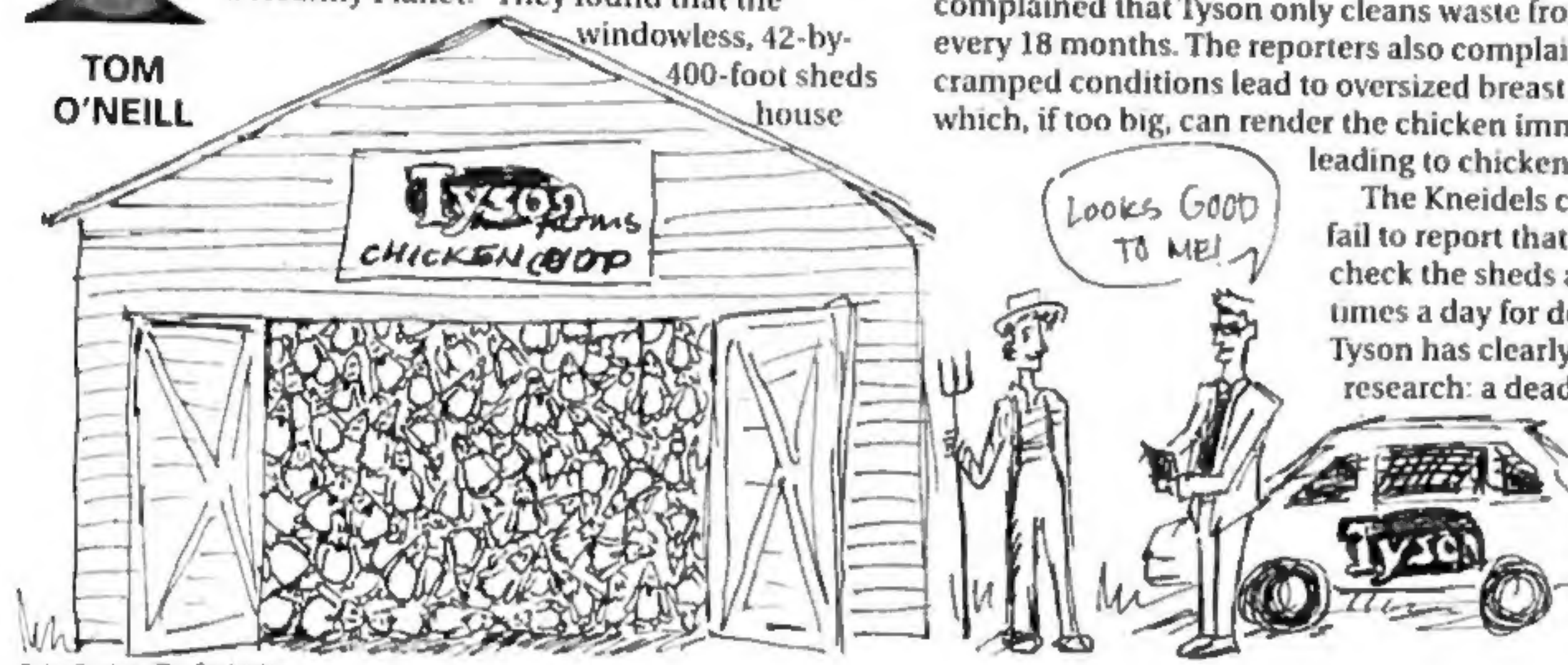
can quickly become lunch for a chicken that wishes it was dead. Besides,

Tyson is really just a product of the society it lives in, where breasts are king. If our culture put more emphasis on personality, maybe Tyson would produce more, um, well-rounded chickens.

Thanks to the Kneidels, the loonies at People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals have targeted Tyson. An undercover reporter infiltrated the chicken-slaughtering line at a Tyson processing plant in Heflin, Alabama. He reported that Tyson instructed its workers to simply rip the heads off the birds that had somehow gotten through the incrementally more humane throat-slicing machine. There's nothing wrong with efficiency. The employees are working on a tight schedule. Chickens don't kill themselves, nor do they turn themselves into Tyson's tasty Anytizers.

Tyson is doing all it can to be a responsible company. It treats their chickens with the same respect they treat minorities. When a "whites only" sign was posted on a bathroom door at a Tyson factory in Alabama and Tyson was sued, the company paid \$871,000 to the plaintiffs. In addition, the Tyson website offers a link to its cooking school, which offers a tutorial for those unable to operate a microwave.

Criticizing the school for serving Tyson products in the cafeteria is out of line. The school shouldn't have to worry about what company cafeteria food comes from, no matter how kindly they treat their chickens. The administration has a lot on its plate, and we shouldn't shove Tyson down its throat. Besides, there are worse companies than Tyson. The food giant is merely par for the course in a world where the only thing companies worry about is money.



Gabe Gordon • The Shakerite

BULLYING PROMPTS SUICIDE

BY JOAN THOMPSON
STAFF REPORTER

If you thought "Mean Girls" was a comedy, think again.

On Jan. 14, 15-year-old Phoebe Prince committed suicide in her Massachusetts home after students "designed [bullying attacks] to humiliate her," said District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel. This suicide comes just 10 months after another Massachusetts school bullying victim, 11-year old Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover, killed himself.

Nine students face charges for Prince's suicide, and the case comes in the midst of the Massachusetts state legislature's passage of an anti-bullying bill. The new bill, arising to combat Massachusetts' troubled past with bullying, states that all faculty, who must undergo training to recognize bullying, are legally obliged to file claims of situations they witness. This requirement comes after Scheibel noted that "certain faculty, staff and administrators of the high school also were alerted to the harassment of Phoebe Prince before her death."

The Massachusetts legislature has taken heat for failing to revise the bill to protect against certain attacks on sexual orientation. The student charges also fueled cries for criminal suits to be filed against South Hadley High School teachers, who reportedly ignored incidents at the school. The bill has catered to people who claim that such a law would violate the First Amendment – an argument that fails to understand the real purpose of free speech.

According to the National Youth Violence Center, 30 percent of students grades 6-10 experience school bullying. More disturbingly, Michigan, New York, Hawaii, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana fail to have any legislation concerning bullying.

Unlike Ohio's private schools, Shaker falls under

the umbrella of Ohio's anti-bullying statute. The law mandates public schools to set up publicized anti-bullying policies and publish infractions on the school website. While this sounds great in theory, there is only so much legislation can do. Shaker provides bullying report forms that define bullying as "any intentional, written (includes cyber bullying), verbal or physical act, on school property or at school events, that a student has exhibited towards another particular student more than once." While the district reported 23 high school cases that warranted removal of a student, zero students filed significant reports at the five elementary schools. It's hard to believe that in an entire school year, no elementary-age students experienced serious bullying.

Criminal charges and anti-bullying bills are important steps to take in this case, but this isn't an issue the government can solve on its own. It's time to start revising our culture, which accepts bullying as just another part of school. South Hadley student Sharon Channon Velazquez continued to threaten Prince after serving a school suspension. In a Boston Herald article, Hadley's mother, Angeles Channon, said, "They're teenagers. They call names."

Social worker Chris Ruma-Cullen called bullying and harassment "a societal issue." Ruma-Cullen, who works with high school safety coordinator Victor Ferrell to mediate conflicts between students, pointed out the distinction between bullying and harassment. Harassment, she said, is a conflict in which there is no clear "bully," and both students share abusive qualities.

It's an issue that fails to warrant as much attention as falling standardized test scores or childhood obesity, but as Ruma-Cullen said, "We do the best that we can do, but it's like putting out fires all the time."

Thought of the Week

If I am under pressure and setting myself dead lines, I will stop for a few minutes and think of just this one day and what I can do with it.

Enjoy your week
Lady J.

"SOMETIMES STUDENTS HAVE hard times, and a little word here can be a big help," said security guard Cheryl Jennings, whom everyone knows as Lady J. She has been supervising the women's locker room since February, and has posted the "Thought of the Week" since she began. Written simply on a piece of notebook paper, the thoughts are inspirational quotes from famous figures taped to the locker room wall. "Look around here and tell me it's not boring, disgusting, smelly," Jennings said. The quotes are her attempt to brighten the mood of both the locker room and the students.

Rachel Shaw • The Shakerite

ALUMS BANNED FROM WEIGHT ROOM

BY IAN ROUND
 RAIDERZONE EDITOR

Eric Balester ('08) has lifted in the high school weight room for more than six years. His time spent increased his dead lift to 500 lbs., but he is now seen as a liability.

"When the ban came into effect, I didn't have anywhere to lift . . . and without any input and little explanation, I was kicked out," Balester said.

Alumni were no longer allowed to lift in the high school weight room beginning Feb. 15, and surveillance cameras were installed in the high school weight room the weekend of Feb. 12. Safety and liability issues spurred these developments decided by the school board.

Business Administrator Robert Kreiner said that he was told by Assistant Principal Frank Wessinger and Head of Security Victor Ferrell that there were people using the weight room who were neither students nor faculty, which posed a liability issue. Ferrell said there was no finite event that sparked the decision, but that they wanted to act early. "We didn't want to wait until something happened," said Ferrell.

"The health and safety of our students and staff are always our highest priority. Therefore, having people who are neither current students nor employees coming into the high school to use our equipment was just not a safe situation," Kreiner said.

Jackson Merriman ('09) badly injured his knee last winter in the weight room, but strength and conditioning coach Mark Hoskins said the incident was unrelated to alumni being excluded from the weight room.

If an alumnus were to suffer an injury in the weight room, Hoskins explained, they might sue the school district.

"In this age of litigation, people are so litigious that they'll sue for anything," he said. "Weight

Weight Room Use for Current
 Students and Employees Only!

Authorized Supervision
 Required.

Ian Round - The Shakerite

ALUMNI HAVE BEEN excluded from the weight room the week of Feb. 15 as a precaution.

rooms and swimming pools are the biggest liability in schools."

However, Hoskins disagrees with the decision to prohibit alumni from using the weight room. "Initially, I took it personally, because if I'm in charge of the weight room, I should have been advised [of what was going on] from day one," he said. "I'm adamantly opposed to it. The wealth of experience the alumni bring [is extremely valuable to current students]."

He believes the alumni cause no harm and are valuable as unofficial coaches and motivators.

"They're made to feel they're the cause of the problem they didn't cause," said Hoskins.

However, Wessinger and Kreiner both said that administrators make decisions regarding building use, and Hoskins is not an administrator.

Kreiner said that students are no longer protected by the district's insurance when they graduate. "Just because they once went to school here doesn't give them any rights, privileges or coverage by the district's insurance policies," he said.

"I understand the intentions, but I believe there is a better and fairer way of doing it," Hoskins said.

According to Cleveland Heights High School Athletic Director Kristin Hughes, Heights does not allow alumni into their weight room unless they are with their former coach.

Kreiner doesn't support a waiver that could release liability of the school in the event of an injury. He said people can still sue regardless of whether they sign a waiver.

Balester now lifts at Lifetime Fitness in Beachwood. He favors the waiver. "Not only does it allow alumni to lift - which has been the case for as long as I can remember - but it brings our experience down and it helps the younger guys."

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SUGAR AND SPICE, EXCEPT ON ICE

With the NHL playoffs heating up, there is an unlikely group of skaters taking the ice at Thornton Park. Members of the Shaker girls hockey team, a recreational team organized by Thornton Park, practice for an hour every week at the rink. Senior Maeve Willis recently picked up the sport, which develops the fundamentals of hockey. "We practice once a week for an hour, just working on basic hockey skills -- stopping, tight turns, passing, shooting," Willis said in a Facebook interview. Willis admitted there may be no future Crosbys or Ovechkins on the team, but she still loves the experience. She said, "There's a lot of falling down and pucks flying in the wrong direction, but all the girls are awesome and it's a blast."



Willis

TOM O'NEILL

Home and far, far, far away

I don't know how the leaders of the Lake Erie League reorganized the conference, but I've had a lot of time to think about it lately while riding across Ohio on a school bus.

The hour-long bus rides to games at Lorain Southview and Admiral King high schools were bad enough. Now, thanks to conference realignment, Warren G. Harding will join the LEL beginning next year.



Ian Round

Warren G. Harding High School is in Warren, Ohio. That's near Youngstown, which is near Pennsylvania, which is far away. Warren is 51 miles and an hour and a half east of Shaker. It left the Steel Valley Conference, was denied membership by the Federal League, and was voted into the LEL by their school board Sept 8, 2009.

We traversed two counties in the 51 miles to Warren April 19. The bus driver paid two tolls. That's 48.5 miles, two counties and two tolls more than a trip to Cleveland Heights. The bus ride made my back sorer than the game did.

The problem is, schools in the LEL are much too widespread, and many Division I schools near Shaker are not members. For baseball, we routinely visit Mentor, Southview, and Admiral King, but we rarely play more local teams like Cleveland Heights or Warrensville Heights. Brush and Mayfield are between Heights and Euclid, but they're not LEL members. The trip would be more than two hours between Harding and Admiral King, so they would have to leave school around 8:45 for a 4:30 game.

Amid all the concerns about student athletes and academics, the LEL ensures we get to -- I mean are forced to -- leave class early. You want us to do homework on the bus to the game? Try focusing while riding in a crowded, uncomfortable bus packed with energetic, excitable teenage boys thrilled to get out of class early. Try focusing when you are one of these rowdy teenagers. Try learning about the Eisenhower administration while the teammates behind you are comparing and contrasting their relative swaggers and those in front of you are analyzing the extent to which their female exploits are superior to their comrades' for the period of 2009-2010. Assess the validity of that statement.

Tree-huggers definitely won't agree with Harding's LEL membership, either. At about 15 miles per gallon on the highway, school buses are not fuel efficient. Season after season, that 102-mile round trip will burn about two bajillion gallons of gas.

And Harding doesn't even have cute girls.



SENIOR SCOREKEEPER TONY Bogan, second from right, stands with (from left) seniors Brian Redline, Mon'trel Myrick, Sam Buddenbaum, Kevin Verne, Tyler Brown-Lewis, and Steven Coono in Orlando Florida during spring break. After missing the cut at tryouts freshman year, Bogan has remained in the baseball program as the scorekeeper.

BOGAN MANAGES, SCORES

BY IAN ROUND
RAIDERZONE EDITOR

There were two outs in the bottom of the fifth inning of a game the baseball team played during their spring break trip to Florida. Senior scorekeeper Tony Bogan was called in to pinch run.

"Is this a joke?" Bogan thought.

The opposing pitcher attempted to pick him off at first base, but Bogan dove back in time. He advanced to third base during the inning.

"We actually tricked him. We told him to wear his uniform because it was 'Florida rules,'" sophomore pitcher Spencer Byers said.

"He was holding his pencil and scorebook and put it down; he had the biggest smile on his face. He ran out to second with the pencil in his hand and he had to throw it back ... it was the best thing ever," Byers said.

Bogan's excitement was evident.

"He took a really big leadoff of second and we were all yelling 'Tony, get back!'" Byers said.

Varsity head coach Mike Babinec said Bogan's appearance was planned since the end of last season. "It's been in the works for probably 11 months," he said.

Bogan is he's the varsity statistician and scorekeeper at football games in the fall and baseball games in the spring. He kept stats at football games, and after failing to make the baseball team his freshman year, he has remained in the program as the scorekeeper.

"I think it's fun. It's a great way to be a part of the program," he said.

Bogan said his interest in scoring arose when he watched Atlanta Braves games on TBS and saw the way they scored. When he didn't make the team freshman year, he agreed to keep scores when asked by the coach. He followed the same progression as many of the players: he scored for the freshman team, then the junior varsity, and has been on varsity since junior year.

"Tony is the best scorer in northeast Ohio. I guarantee there is no one who cares more about their respective team," said senior infielder Kevin Verne.

Bogan has to make the stats correctly, score the game for fact, and call in the scores to the Plain Dealer. "I have a lot of confidence that I know

I'll do it right," he said. "I just wish our program got more respect from the media ... they always follow the same teams ... I wish I could put in [more than] one notable player, I wish I could put in two or three."

Bogan said he is never treated badly because he doesn't play. "[The team treats Tony] like a teammate. He's part of the team. Without Tony, it wouldn't be Shaker Baseball," Byers said.

Verne said, "You can really tell that Tony loves baseball, and loves what he is doing for the team."

"I think the kids appreciate the fact that Tony loves what he does. He's absolutely thrilled to pieces that he gets to be the scorekeeper for the varsity baseball team ... Everything that he does about baseball is genuine. Sometimes players themselves don't have that genuine enthusiasm," Babinec said.

Byers and Bogan have their own exclusive handshake that they do on the bench. "We made it up in Florida while playing billiards," Byers said. "We did it about every time I came into the dugout against Mentor." The handshake includes a high-five, a backhand-high-five, three fist bumps, and a chest-bump. "He made it up,

but he always does it so slow," Byers said. Bogan didn't just play in Florida; he participated in the ground-ball competition at tryouts March 5. "It felt great to be in the last 6," he said. "I beat people such as Kevin Verne and Brian Redline. Everyone clapped for me and it felt great."

"I wanted him to win so bad. That would have been sick," Verne said. Despite Bogan's love for scoring, he isn't particularly interested in math. However, he loves auto racing, and his favorite driver is Brad Keselowski. "He's a great driver. ... he drives a Dodge, which is my favorite kind of stock car."

Bogan is leaning towards attending Kent State next year, where he plans on majoring in engineering, and plans on scoring for their baseball team. "Their field is very beautiful," he said.

Tony is the best scorekeeper in northeast Ohio. I guarantee there is no one who cares more about their respective team.

Kevin Verne
senior infielder